

# Minutes of the Mill Hill Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting held online via Zoom on Monday 10 May 2021



Chaired by Ilana Cohen with Stephen B. Cohen taking minutes. The meeting opened at 6.30 pm

## Present

16 participants on Zoom.

## Acknowledgement of Indigenous heritage

Waverley Council respectfully acknowledges our Indigenous heritage and recognises the ongoing Aboriginal traditional custodianship of the land which forms our Local Government Area.

## Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting on 15 February 2021

**Question 1:** Safety at the New Ruthven Street / Oxford Street intersection - it is now a very wide road entrance! Any plans for a pedestrian island midway? Any plans for clearer road markings to delineate between cycle path and pedestrian zone?

**Answer 1:** There are no plans for a pedestrian refuge, the shared environment will be marked per Transport for NSW Technical Direction. We will install additional warning signage to assist road users with the new treatment, we will monitor the operations. City of Sydney has quite a few similar treatments including; Bourke Street between Cleveland Street and Fitzroy Street, George Street between Cleveland Street and Phillip Street, and Saunders Street Ultimo. The paved areas work similarly to a 'Shared Zone' where pedestrians have right of way.

**Question 2:** Nature strip on the Eastern side of Ruthven Street adjacent to (the now closed) Flannerys.

**Answer 2:** Works will start here in July 2021.

**Question 3:** Is the council going to finish the extension of the nature strip along to Gowrie Lane?

**Answer 3:** Works will start here in July 2021. It will go from Oxford Street to Gowrie Lane. (closest to Oxford Street entrance). The works involve the removal of old turf and laying of new turf. Council is also investigating a suitable tree to plant in this location to replace the tree that died a few years ago.

**Question 4:** Update on the rest of the cycle path plan. Specifically, some residents want to see a plan that shows how the cycleway will pass by the ends of Ruthven Street and Mill Hill Road. Can it show if a car can stop between Oxford Street and the cycleway when exiting either of the formerly mentioned streets or will they have to wait behind the cycleway till there is a break in the traffic?

**Answer 4:** Simply put, pedestrians have right of way and then bicycles and vehicles give way to whichever is in the intersection first. The paved areas are similar to a 'Shared Zone' such as Notts Avenue where the paved area is effectively / legally a footpath that cars can drive on. Whilst pedestrians cannot obstruct vehicles, vehicles must give way to pedestrians. Bicycles and vehicles give way to whoever is already in the shared environment.

A car cannot stop between the cycleway and Oxford Street but can pull out across the bike path before entering Oxford Street.

Minutes taken as read.

## **Bondi Junction cycleway project update**

The cycleway will link Bondi Road to York Road via Bronte Road, Spring Street and Denison Street.

The cycleway project is on the web:

[https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/building/major\\_projects/streets\\_and\\_public\\_places/bondi\\_junction\\_cycleway](https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/building/major_projects/streets_and_public_places/bondi_junction_cycleway)

There is still concern regarding pedestrian safety at the Ruthven Street / Oxford Street intersection. A lot of kids heading to and from school cross there and now the footpath is level with the road, there is less awareness that they are actually on a road and not a footpath. It is quite wide and cars swing into Ruthven Street from Oxford Street quite quickly to avoid oncoming traffic and do not stop for the pedestrians already crossing the street.

Apart from markings and signs which the car drivers will not see, can anything be done to improve safety? A refuge island in the centre would at least keep the cars on the correct side of the intersection.

There is concern that when Denison Street becomes no right turn at Oxford Street, Mill Hill Road will become congested with cars trying to turn right across the cycleway. Will there be adequate warning on Denison Street to alert drivers that they won't be able to turn right at the end?

Will sections of the cycleway open in stages or will we have to wait for the whole length of it to be completed before it opens? The Mayor had previously stated that Spring Street was complete, however the cycleway remains closed. There is no indicated date for the construction of the cycleway in front of the bus depot.

## **Development issues in Bondi Junction**

The development at 45-47 Oxford Street:

Can Council confirm if residents of Mill Hill Road and Denison Street were informed or consulted about this development which is now going to be higher than the LEP? It appears many don't know about it.

Can a condition be placed on it (similar to 194 Oxford Street – "The Twin Towers") whereby residents cannot be allocated a street parking permit?

## **Update on buses in the area**

Massive changes are planned for bus routes in the Eastern Suburbs. 25 bus routes will be withdrawn, 23 bus routes will be modified and 11 new routes will be added.

The changes are supposed to happen towards the end of 2021 and are intended to reduce competition between buses and trams.

More information can be found at:

[https://www.mysydney.nsw.gov.au/Have\\_Your\\_Say\\_On\\_The\\_South\\_East\\_Bus\\_Changes](https://www.mysydney.nsw.gov.au/Have_Your_Say_On_The_South_East_Bus_Changes)

## **Other business**

Work has commenced on the restoration of The Boot Factory in Spring Street Bondi Junction.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

**The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 25 August 2021.**